

One generation shall praise thy works to another
and tell of thy mighty acts.

It has long appeared to me to be a duty laid upon me to
commit to paper, some account of the Lord's gracious dealings
with me: but being sensible of my great unworthiness, and
many short comings, I have hesitated to give up thereto. I fully
believe to my own loss. But a gracious and merciful God.
knows that my unwillingness has not sprung from any other cause
but discouragement, fearing lest any should think me presump-
tuous, who fall so far short of the stature of a man in Christ.
yet, by the grace of God I am what I am, and to tell of the Lord's
goodness and wondrous works to one so unworthy as myself. will
I trust be instrumental in his holy land, in bringing some to com-
mune and see for themselves how good the Lord is.

But whatever may be the result of my writing to others. one thing
is clear to me, that it is my duty to leave behind some account
of the Lord's goodness to myself. and thus fulfil as far as my abilities
will permit, that which is required at my hand, and so far verify
the words of the Psalmist. quoted above, accordingly in the 48 year
of my age, I have made a commencement. and may be who has
laid this work, as I devoutly believe, upon me, and me therein
that I may faithfully carry it on, only in the ability that he gives,
for his own works only can rightly praise him.

- I was born the 6th of 10th month. 1801. at Horsham, near London.
My Parents Thomas and Mary Cotton were Members of the Society
of Friends, and both of them had a love for the Truth, and endeav-
oured to bring up their Children, according to their ability, in the love
and fear of God. At 10 years of age I was sent to Friends' School.

at Ackworth, a privilege for which to this day, I feel thankful.
Shortly after my return to London to my Parents. I was
apprenticed to Frederick Farrar, as a Carpenter &c. and stayed
with him till I ~~was~~ commenced business on my account, which
I pursued till I left England with my ^{wife and} family, then consisting of
four children to settle in the Australian Colonies, and arrived at
Hobart about the middle of twelfth Month, 1828.

When I was a scholar at Ackworth School, I was made
sensible of an inward principle of grace and truth, which never
consented to evil, no, not even in thought - and many were my
desires then, to become a true child of God, and at times I was
favored with the sensible enjoyment of the Lord's presence. On that
in those days, I had fully closed in with the Lord's goodness then
graciously permitted me - what trouble it would have kept me
from, what enjoyment it would have led me to. Yet in all my
subsequent unfaithfulness and departures from the truth, I never lost
sight thereof, but longed to be a true child of God, but concluded
whenever I thought thereon, that such a privilege would never be
bestowed on ~~such an unworthy person~~ as myself. Thus my time
passed on, and I began to think of sitting down just as I was, not
expecting mercy would ever be bestowed on me. But He who is
all-benign, saw me and had compassion on me, and sent his
dedicated servant James Backhouse, on a religious visit to this Land,
and made him the means of introducing me into the glorious liberty of
the Sons of God.

Who can describe all the steps of the penitent towards the Tree of
Life? the cruel assaults of the soul's enemy, striving again to
obtain the mastery - the weakness of the flesh and spirit, the fear
of man, and terrors of all sorts, not yet fully disarmed, striving to
bring again into bondage. If at these times of sore temptation
the Lord had not himself displayed his Standard, I must have
stumbled and fallen. How many times - He alone knows how
many - I was almost gone, overwhelmed - led captive - yet to

the praise of his Grace - he it spoke - the Lord. delivered
me out of all my troubles - he was my shield and my buckler.
- Praise the Lord. O my soul. and all that is within me. bless his holy
name. My days. I now experienced to be indeed days of prayer.
- the injunctions of the Savior. Watch & pray. lest ye enter into temp-
tation. was observed - and therein I experienced safety and preservation.
at length I became sensible that I had passed from death to life.
that my sins were washed away. by the precious blood of Christ.
and though it had been in perceptible to myself. the Lord had
given up - I knew not how - the wind had blown when it listed.
and though its effects were apparent. new thoughts. new desires.
new eyesight - "Behold I create all things new" - it was indeed
the work of the Creator. to Him be all the praise.

It was not long after this whilst accompanying my dear friends -
James Washburn. then companion Geo Washburn Walker. in one of
their journeys at the residence of our friend David Stead at St.
Peters Head - in Salisbury. I was tenderly visited by the Lord. and it
was shown me. that the Lord would require me to speak publicly in the
promotion of his holy cause - agreeably to his assurance sometimes before.
that if kept in humility and obedience before ^{him} ~~me~~ - he would open my mouth
to testify to others of his abundant goodness. and dwelling upon the exercise
in our evening meeting. feeling the call renewed. I stood on my feet with
the words. then put therein by the Lord himself - "It is shown unto thee. O man
what thou shouldst do - and what the Lord thy God thy God doth require
of thee. to do justice. love mercy and walk humbly with thy God." and
sitting down. such a flow of the love of my Creator filled my heart as I had
never before experienced - it was comparable to being swallowed up
the divine presence - my peace indeed flowed as a mighty River. to
the praise of my God. and the excellency of his goodness be it spoken.

I accompanied my dear friends in their journeys on several occasions.
In a few days and sometimes extending to weeks - and was comforted